Coal mine accidents

40. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents that look palce in coal mines, during the last three years;

(b) how many among them, were major accidents, details of each major accident and also the number of deaths in each accident;

(c) whether any enquiry was ordered into each of these accidents, if so, what were the findings in each case;

(d) whether any responsibility was fixed for each of these accidents, if so, details thereof and also action taken; and

(e) what steps are being taken to prevent mine disaster in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The number of accidents which took place in the coal mines in India are as given below:

	1995	1994	1993	1992	Total
	(Jan-Oct.)				
Fatal accidents	126	156	156	165	603
Serious accidents	632	717	854	810	3013

(Source: DGMS)

(b) Accidents involving four or more fatalities are termed as high fatality accidents. There have been seven such accidents during 1993—95 as per details given below:

Date	Colliery	Company	No. of fatalities	Cause
19.11.93	Tipong	North Eastern Coalfields	9	Ignition of gases
18.1.94	Mahavir Khani No. 1.	Singareni Collieries Col. Ltd.	4	Fall of roof
25.1.94	New kenda	Eastern Coalfields Limited	55	Ignition/fire
5.3.94	Kotma (West)	South Eastern Coalfields Limited	6	Fall of Roof
11.12.94	Bararee	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	4	Winding in shaft
26.9.95	Gaslitand	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	64	Inrush of surface water
26.9.95	Katra-Choitudih	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	4	Inrush of surface water

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Inquiries were held in each of these accidents by the Directorate General of Mines Safety and Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) of the concerned coal company. Findings of the ISO enquiry and action taken by Coal India Limited as follows:

Company	Date of accident	Name of mine	Responsibility fixed on	Action taken
NEC	19.11.93	Tipping	1. Manager	Stoppage of one increment
			2. Safey Officer	Stoppage of one increment
			3. Ventilation officer	Stoppage of one increment
			4. Colliery Engineer	Stoppage of one increment
			5. Electrical Supervisor	Stoppage of one increment
			6. Mining Sirdar	Demoted to lower grade.
ECL	25.1.94	New Kenda	A Court of Inquiry to look into the causes and circusmtances attending the accident has been constituted by the Government.	
SECL	5.3.94	Kotma (West)	1. Agent	Charge sheeted
			2. Manager	Charge sheeted
			3. Under Manager	Charge sheeted
			4. Sr. Over Man	Cautioned
			5. Safey Officer	Cautioned
BCCL	11.12.94	Bararee	None	Does not arise
BCCL	26.9.95	Gaslitand & other Mines	—	Court of Inquiry instituted

In some cases Directorate General of Mines safey has also launched prosecution.

(a) Preventive steps as laid down in detail in the Coal Mines Regulations, directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Expert Committee recommendations as also in the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, safety Conferences, etc. are followed by the mine management to prevent accidents. In order to ensure better observance of these steps Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety audits; workers participation in safety manangement, tripartite-bipartite reviews at various levels, training and re-training of work persons, observance of safety week/safety compaigns and National Safety awards.